

# Haverhill Urban District

in the

Administrative County of West Suffolk



# Annual Report

of the

Medical Officer of Health

for the year

# 1948



To the Chairman and Members  
of the  
Haverhill Urban District Council

Gentlemen,

I present for your consideration my Annual Report  
for the year 1948.

The Report is drawn up in accordance with the  
instructions contained in Circular 3/49 issued by the  
Ministry of Health.

I am again able to report that the general health  
of the population appears to be good and that there  
has been no incident of the more serious infectious  
diseases.

ARTHUR MORGAN,  
*Medical Officer of Health*



## GENERAL STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS

Area of the District ... ..	2,530 acres
Rateable Value ... ..	£17,969
Sum represented by a Penny Rate ... ..	£68
Rates ... ..	18/6
(County Rate: 12/1, U.D.C. Rate: 6/4½, Assessment Committee ½d.)	
Number of inhabited houses ... ..	1352
Estimated Population ... ..	4058

The principal industry is the manufacture of ready made clothing, gloves, mats and textile fabrics. In addition there are three Factories connected with the needs of agriculture. Two industries started since the war manufacture of tooth brushes etc., and electrical plant. The tooth brush factory has made extensive additions during the year. There are no industries or occupations that could be considered in any way likely to have a prejudicial effect upon the health of the employees or that of the general public. The town is a centre for the surrounding villages and a market is held weekly.

### EXTRACT FROM VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR

#### *Live Births:*

	Total	Male	Female
Legitimate ... ..	60	37	23
Illegitimate ... ..	3	1	2
Totals ...	63	38	25

Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated resident population ... .. 15.5

Birth rate per 1,000 population (England and Wales) ... .. 17.9

#### *Stillbirths:*

	Total	Male	Female
Legitimate ... ..	2	1	1
Illegitimate ... ..	—	—	—
Totals ...	2	1	1

*Deaths :*

	Total	Male	Female
	51	22	29
Death Rate per 1,000 estimated resident population ..	...	...	12.5
Death Rate per 1,000 population (England and Wales) ..	...	...	10.8

Deaths from puerperal causes :—

(a) Puerperal Sepsis	...	...	...	...	Nil
(b) Other puerperal causes	...	...	...	...	Nil

Number of deaths of infants under one year of age :

	Total	Male	Female
Legitimate ...	1	1	—
Illegitimate ...	1	—	1
Totals ...	2	1	1

Death Rate of infants under one year of age :—

All infants per 1,000 live births	...	...	...	...	31.7
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	...	...	...	...	16.6
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	...	...	...	...	33.3
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	...	...	...	...	6
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	...	...	...	...	Nil
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	...	...	...	...	Nil
Deaths from Influenza (all ages)	...	...	...	...	Nil
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	...	...	...	...	Nil

Table classifying Deaths under age groups :—

	Total	Male	Female
Under 1 year	2	1	1
1 and under 2	—	—	—
2 „ 5	—	—	—
5 „ 15	—	—	—
15 „ 25	—	—	—
25 „ 35	2	1	1
35 „ 45	1	—	1
45 „ 55	5	3	2
55 „ 65	8	6	2
65 „ 75	15	6	9
75 and over	18	5	13
Total ...	51	22	29

Birth and Death Rates for the last ten years as compared with 1948 :—

	1938	-39	-40	-41	-42	-43	-44	-45	-46	-47	-48
Birth Rates	9.9	14.4	14.4	13.2	12.8	15.6	19.8	16.5	16.8	21.9	15.5
Death Rates	13.1	15.0	15.0	14.7	13.8	13.8	14.9	15.1	13.9	17.5	12.5

## GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA

There are no alterations to report in any of the general arrangements.

### *Public Health Officers of the Authority:—*

- (a) A whole time Medical Officer of Health who also acts for other districts.
- (b) Mr. J. H. Clarke, of Haverhill, is Surveyor, Housing Officer, and Sanitary Inspector. Mr. Clarke holds the Testamur of Municipal and County Engineers and the Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute.

### *Hospitals :*

The small Isolation Hospital of ten beds built by the Urban District Council about 1890 became redundant in 1943 and has now been converted into three dwelling houses consisting of two 3-bedroom bungalows and one 2-bedroom house.

## SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

### *Water Supply :*

The Waterworks are situated in Camps Road on the West side of the Town, the floor level of the Pump House is 279.50 feet above O.D. The supply is obtained from the chalk and consists of a well 7 feet in diameter, 103 feet deep, with two headings each 25 feet long running North and South ; there are 3 boreholes, one 9 inch diameter at the bottom of the well to a depth of 250 feet from surface level, one through the south heading 10 $\frac{1}{8}$  inch diameter and another through the North heading to a depth of 350 feet and 360 feet from surface level.

A test pump when the 18-inch bore was sunk in 1944 showed an ample yield of water up to 26,500 gallons per hour from a depth of 150 feet below surface level.

### *Pumping Machinery :*

The water is raised by deep well three throw pumps in duplicate (suction levels 100 feet below surface level) and one reciprocating type borehole pump (suction level 175 feet below surface level) each delivering 10,000 gallons per hour. The power is obtained from 24 B.H.P. Crossley Diesel Oil Engines in duplicate.

When the rest level of the water in the well falls below 204 feet above O.D. the supply to the deep well pumps is restricted and part of the supply is dependent on the borehole pump.

A scheme has been prepared to install a vertical spindle centrifugal pump, capacity 15,000 g.p.h. in the 18-inch borehole and this should be completed in 1950.



There is a covered service reservoir with a capacity of 150,000 gallons, equal to  $1\frac{1}{4}$  times the average daily consumption, the top water level is 350 feet above O.D.

(a) Within the U.D.C. area	...	...	...	1337
(a) Outside the area	...	...	...	36
Length of mains	...	..	...	... 7.1 miles
Number of houses not connected to mains:				
(a) Within reach	...	...	...	—
(b) Not within reach	...	...	...	15
The proportion of houses supplied by standpipes (all within the curtilage of the houses)	...	...	...	11%

### *Purity of the Water:*

Frequent samples have been sent for bacteriological examinations there has been no variation from the standard type of report reproduced here.

The chemical examination showed little variation from previous analyses.

The water is chlorinated.

### *Water Charges:*

The charges for water are 1/2d. per 1000 gallons with reductions on quantity.

1/2d. in the £ on rateable value with a minimum charge of 10/- p.a.

The following is a copy of a Bacteriological Examination of a sample of water by the:

Counties Public Health Laboratories,  
66, Victoria Street, London. S.W. I.

Number of Colonies developing on

Agar per c.c. or ml. in	...1 day at 37° C.	2 days at 37° C.	3 days at 20° C.
	0	0	3
Presumptive Coliform Reaction	Present in - Absent from 100 ml.		
Bact. coli	Present in - Absent from 100 ml.		
Cl. welchii Reaction	Present in - Absent from 100 ml.		

This is a very satisfactory sample. It is clear and bright in appearance and of the highest standard of bacterial purity indicative of a pure and wholesome water suitable for public supply purposes.

(Signed) GORDON MILES.

For the Counties Public Health Laboratories.



The following show the variations of rest level of the water in the wells 1944 to 1948 inclusive :—

1944	{ Maximum level, December ...	...	197.3ft. above O.D.		
	{ Minimum level, October ...	...	194.2ft. „ „		
1945	{ Maximum level, April ...	...	204ft. „ „		
	{ Minimum level, December ...	...	196.5ft. „ „		
1946	{ Maximum level, December ...	...	204.25ft. „ „		
	{ Minimum level, September ...	...	198.6ft. „ „		
1947	{ Maximum level, April ...	...	210.10ft. „ „		
	{ Minimum level, December ...	...	198.25ft. „ „		
1948	{ Maximum level, March ...	...	202.00ft. „ „		
	{ Minimum level, January ...	...	197.40ft. „ „		

The average daily consumption of water per head was 29 gallons.

Rainfall as registered by the rain gauge at the Waterworks during the last five years as compared with 1948 :—

	1948	1947	1946	1945	1944	1943
JAN.	3.64	1.56	1.48	1.64	1.40	4.86
FEB.	0.91	1.64	1.70	1.25	1.15	0.95
MAR.	0.90	4.47	1.42	1.18	0.63	0.46
APRIL	1.80	1.80	0.90	1.06	1.71	0.94
MAY	3.00	0.48	1.57	2.22	1.14	1.64
JUNE	2.89	2.98	2.59	1.47	1.50	1.90
JULY	2.00	1.93	4.94	2.10	2.28	0.72
AUG.	4.01	0.12	3.50	2.64	2.55	1.49
SEPT.	1.27	1.13	2.84	3.28	3.47	1.65
OCT.	1.62	0.24	1.86	1.73	3.57	1.56
NOV.	1.69	1.25	4.00	0.49	3.26	1.79
DEC.	1.50	2.75	2.57	3.37	1.08	1.99
Totals	25.23	20.35	29.37	22.43	23.74	19.95

Snow or rain was recorded on 119 days. The greatest rainfall was for the 24 hours ending 9 a.m. August 2nd when 1.80 inches was recorded. The total rainfall for the year was 25.23 inches.

### *Open-Air Swimming Bath :*

This was constructed in 1930, is well situated in the centre of the Town, the dimensions are 75 ft. x 30ft. with a maximum depth of 7ft. 6ins. In 1938 a Filtration and Chlorination plant was installed which has worked very efficiently.

### *Sewerage and Sewage Disposal :*

The Sewage Disposal Works are situated on the east side of the Town. The sewage gravitates to the Works through an 18-inch outfall sewer. The system is partially separate. All but a few outlying houses are within reach of the sewers.

The Disposal Works consist of screening, detritus, storm water, two collecting and two settling tanks, and two percolating filters with final treatment on 6 acres of land, all underdrained; two acres are terraced. Crops are grown on the land.

The Pumping Plant consists of Diesel Oil engines and centrifugal pumps in duplicate.

The effluent discharges into a small stream which is a tributary of the River Stour.

Number of dwelling houses connected with sewers	...	1294
Number of dwelling houses not connected with sewers	..	58
(None of which is within reach of the sewers)		

### *House Scavenging :*

Collections are made weekly from about 1380 premises and the refuse is disposed of by controlled tipping in a disused pit.

The provision of sanitary dustbins was made compulsory in 1938.

## SANITARY INSPECTIONS OF THE AREA

Number of inspections	...	...	...	...	...	912
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### *Housing :*

During the year, 19 3-bedroom houses on the Duddery Hill Site were completed and a further 11 3-bedroomed houses were in course of construction. In addition the Council took over from the Haverhill Housing Society the completion of 12 3-bedroom houses commenced on the Parkway Estate and eight of these were completed in 1948.

Plans are in course of preparation for the erection of 24 3-bedroom houses and 4 2-bedroom bungalows on the Duddery Hill and Mill Field Estates and 18 3-bedroom houses on the Parkway Estate.

The Council now own :—

188—3-bedroom houses

1—2-bedroom bungalow

16—1-bedroom bungalows

10—Prefabricated 2-bedroom bungalows

11—Army Huts converted into 2-bedroom dwellings

11—Other houses purchased by the Council

## PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

There is nothing to comment upon under this heading. The only cases notified being those of measles and whooping cough. Table I, inserted for comparative purposes, shows the number of notifications during the last ten years as compared with 1948; and Table II the total number received during 1948 arranged in Age Groups.

TABLE I.

	1938	-39	-40	-41	-42	-43	-44	-45	-46	-47	-48
Diphtheria ...	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—
Scarlet fever ...	5	1	27	5	10	1	1	10	3	—	—
Erysipelas ...	—	—	5	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Puerperal pyrexia	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	—
Ophthalmia neonatorum ...	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Measles ...	—	—	—	213	—	42	—	2	11	1	251
Whooping cough	—	1	—	32	—	18	—	—	4	1	5
Pneumonia ...	1	—	13	8	6	—	7	—	1	—	—
Totals ...	6	3	45	258	16	65	9	12	20	2	256

TABLE II.  
Analysis of Notifiable Diseases under Age Groups.

Disease.	Total Cases Notified.	AT AGES - YEARS.												Admitt'd to Hospital	Deaths.
		-1	1-	2-	3	4-	5-	10-	15-	20-	35-	45-	65-		
Measles .. ..	251	5	20	19	29	27	136	13		1	1			—	
Whooping Cough ..	5	5												—	
TOTALS .. ..	256	10	20	19	29	27	136	13	—	1	1	—	—	—	

## TUBERCULOSIS

Age Periods.	New Cases				Deaths			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F.
0								
1								
5								
15			1					
25		1						
35	1			1				1
45								
55								
65 and over								
Totals ..	1	1	1	1	—	—	—	1

There were no deaths of non-notified cases.

No action has been necessary under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925, or under Section 172 of the Public Health Act, 1936.

ARTHUR MORGAN, M.A., M.R.C.S., D.P.H.,

Medical Officer of Health.







